

As we look back on the bloodshed and atrocities committed against the Armenian people, we must recognize the event for the genocide that it was. As Henry Morgenthau, Sr., the former Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire stated, "I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."

To lose this truth is to tarnish the memories of the millions of Armenians who lost their lives to ethnic cleansing. As a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I have joined my colleagues in sending a letter to President Bush urging him to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide during his April 24th commemoration address. By drawing attention to the legacy of this genocide, we can strengthen our resolve to prevent future human tragedies of this kind.

I am proud to represent a large and vibrant Armenian community in the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts. Every year, survivors and their descendants make public and vivid the hidden details of the Armenian Genocide as they participate in commemoration ceremonies across the Merrimack Valley. In my hometown of Lowell, the Armenian-American Veterans Honor Guard will lead a procession to City Hall for a flag raising ceremony in recognition of the 89th anniversary of the genocide. The commemoration offers participants an opportunity to remind the world of the tragedy that befell Armenians of the Ottoman Empire.

I am honored to add my voice to those of my colleagues today in commemorating the Armenian Genocide. We will never forget the truth.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM GALBRAITH

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a respected member of the Philadelphia community. Mr. William Galbraith recently turned 90 years young.

Mr. Galbraith celebrated his 90th birthday this April 14, 2004. He has led an exemplary life filled with admirable achievements. Whether it be graduating from the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science or becoming the head of a carpet mill, Mr. Galbraith has been an exemplary figure for our great city.

This nonagenarian wisely has continued to show a real zest for life. Until recently, Mr. Galbraith remained an avid golfer, skier, and tennis player. He has traveled extensively including a trip to China to teach workers how to use mill equipment.

Married to Anna, Mr. Galbraith's family includes his nephew Clyde Galbraith and his niece Joyce Burke. I am quite sure his entire family is very proud of his numerous accomplishments.

Along with her family and friends, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. William Galbraith during his 90th birthday celebration.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY LEACH

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the life of Timothy Brooks Leach of Aspen, Colorado, who passed away recently from injuries sustained in a skiing accident at the age of 27. Tim was a man deeply devoted to his family, and his job as a psychotherapist. His kindness, intelligence and work ethic, along with his strong desire to help others, gained him the reputation as a respected professional. His loss at such a young age will be deeply felt by his family and the community of Aspen.

Tim, a native of Charlottesville, Virginia, earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia in 1998, and subsequently earned his master's from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2000. After earning his degree, he worked as a counselor for Commonwealth Catholic Charities in Richmond.

In 2002, Tim and his wife Amy moved to Aspen. Tim eagerly took on a variety of challenging counseling positions: opening Leach and Leach Psychotherapy with his mother Clare, taking a position on the emergency-crisis counseling team at Aspen Counseling Services, and leading DUI classes and other rehabilitative programs. Despite his workload, Tim always managed to devote time to his beloved family.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this Nation and pay tribute to the life and memory of Timothy Brooks Leach. He dedicated his life to his family, to the service of his community, and to his profession. His passing is a great loss to the town of Aspen and the State of Colorado. My thoughts are with his loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the upcoming elections on the Annan Plan in Cyprus to be held on Saturday April 24, 2004.

I wish to make it clear that there should be no pressure on the outcome of these elections. If the Greek or Turkish Cypriots reject the Annan Plan, then negotiations will ultimately continue. This vote will not be the last chance to have a reunited Cyprus.

The goal of the process must be to attain a just and lasting solution, not a rushed solution. I know the people of Cyprus are being made to feel that this is the only way to achieve a solution, but that is not true. This is the way to achieve a pressured solution. In the end, it may be too much to ask that concerns that have been unresolved for 30 years be effectively settled in a process that lasted less than 3 months.

I encourage each and every eligible Cypriot voter to cast a free ballot on Saturday. Please

vote for your beliefs, not the beliefs of others. The great privilege of free and fair elections is that they are just that, free and fair. Vote freely and for what you think is fair. If that is 'no', do not believe that this is the end of negotiations. They will continue, because a lasting and equitable solution for the people of Cyprus, and the goal of a united Cyprus, is too important to abandon, now or ever.

Mr. Speaker, I myself have very serious reservations about the Annan Plan that I have expressed in writing to both General Secretary Annan and Secretary Colin Powell. I ask unanimous consent that these letters be introduced into the RECORD immediately following my remarks.

Regardless of my personal reservations, it is the people of Cyprus who will vote on Saturday. I hope every Cypriot realizes that they need to vote for what they believe. They must understand that, while we are interested in the outcome, there can be no pressure on them. We will accept any outcome so long as the elections are free and fair.

Have no fear, people of Cyprus, your friends will never abandon you.

U.S. CONGRESS,

Washington, DC, March 23, 2004.

Hon. COLIN L. POWELL,
Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY POWELL: We want to thank you for your active engagement in the issues and negotiations that concern the reunification of the Republic of Cyprus. As you know, negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots are currently being conducted under the framework outlined by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on February 13, 2004.

While we applaud both Greek and Turkish Cypriots for agreeing to negotiate the important issues affecting the future of a reunited Cyprus, we believe the timeframe outlined by the Annan Plan is too compressed. Under the Annan Plan, there is a deadline for the people of Cyprus to vote on a referendum concerning the future of Cyprus on April 20, 2004.

As you know, the people of Cyprus have been struggling with issues related to the division and reunification of Cyprus for 30 years. It is difficult for us to believe that concerns that have been unresolved for 30 years can be effectively and permanently settled in negotiations that are scheduled to be completed in less than three months.

It is our belief that a solution should come through comprehensive negotiations that do not force the citizens of Cyprus to vote on a referendum that may be perceived as an ultimatum. It is also our firm belief that the people of Cyprus will not approve any plan they are pressured to accept.

It is in the best interest of a permanent, peaceful solution for Cyprus that the important negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots be given an adequate amount of time to decide these issues. Mr. Secretary, we respectfully request that you use your influence to ensure that the people of Cyprus are given a longer, more appropriate, schedule in order to ensure that all issues affecting the reunification of Cyprus are settled to the satisfaction of all concerned. The reunification of Cyprus should be settled through comprehensive negotiations that do not impose an arbitrary time constraint on the affected parties.

We appreciate the support that you have provided to the efforts of the UN Secretary General in resuming the Cyprus talks and your personal commitment and involvement in the process. We urge you to continue to

use your diplomatic abilities for reaching a just, functional and viable settlement in Cyprus.

Sincerely,

LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART,
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
MARIO DIAZ-BALART.

—
U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2004.

Hon. COLIN POWELL,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY POWELL: We are writing to express our concerns on certain key issues, which are currently being discussed under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) as part of the Annan plan, for the reunification of Cyprus.

It is with great satisfaction that we learned of the resumption of the direct UN sponsored Cyprus talks. The commitment of the parties to negotiate within a specific time framework and on the basis of the Annan plan with the aim of reuniting the island before May 1, 2004, is of immense importance. It is our sincere wish and hope that Cyprus will join the European Union as a reunited country.

There are certain provisions in the current Annan plan that could render it unworkable and should be revised. We feel that the United States must help the UN reach a fair and viable agreement that will lead to a strong endorsement by the people of Cyprus. We must secure for the people of Cyprus a democratic system of governance based on the rule of law and the ideals that guide our own democracy.

It is our firm belief that in order to achieve this goal the Administration must promote, within the framework of the Cyprus talks, the following proposals:

(1) It is absolutely necessary that all legal obligations of the guarantor powers (Turkey, Greece, UK), including the security aspects, be in place prior to the two simultaneous referenda that will be held on April 20 by the two communities in Cyprus. In addition, all federal laws and no national agreements have to be completed and agreed before the referenda. The people of Cyprus must have a completed accord to consider so they fully understand what they are voting to approve or disapprove. Furthermore, the federal government of the United Cyprus Republic will have to be able to function immediately and effectively after the new state of affairs is established. It is, therefore, essential that the final accord be readily implemented and self-executing.

(2) The Annan plan proposes a highly complicated system for resolving property issues that may force rightful owners to give up their property rights. It is essential that the agreed system for resolving property issues be consistent with the European Convention on Human Rights and international law.

(3) The agreed number of settlers from Turkey that will remain in Cyprus must be clearly defined. This number should be as low as possible and a fair immigration structure should be developed.

(4) During the transitional period, the land that will be returned to the Greek Cypriot side must come under the control of the United Nations so that the process of returning this land and the resettlement of the refugees will be irreversible.

(5) The Annan plan calls for the full demilitarization of both, Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot sides, so it makes no sense for troops from Greece and Turkey to remain in Cyprus indefinitely. The U.S. should insist that security arrangements in Cyprus be enhanced through an enlarged UN force mandated by the UN Security Council.

The achievement of a genuine resolution to the Cyprus issue is in the interest of the

United States and should therefore be energetically pursued. As you have stated, a lasting peace will benefit the people of Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey and at the same time serves American interests in the region. The division of Cyprus and its people must come to an end once and for all. A comprehensive settlement appears possible and Cyprus, a good friend and strong ally of the United States, deserves a bright future as a reunited country in the European Union. The United States should help to make this happen.

We appreciate the support that you have provided to the efforts of the UN Secretary General in resuming the Cyprus talks and your personal commitment and involvement in the process. We urge the administration to continue to use all its diplomatic leverage for reaching a just, functional and viable settlement in Cyprus.

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL BILIRAKIS,
CAROLYN MALONEY,
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART,
ROBERT MENENDEZ,
GEORGE RADANOVICH,
Members of Congress.

—
U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2004.

Hon. KOFI ANNAN,
Secretary General, United Nations, New York, NY.

DEAR SECRETARY ANNAN: We are writing to express our concerns on certain key issues which are currently being discussed under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) as part of the Annan plan for the reunification of Cyprus.

It is with great satisfaction that we learned of the resumption of the direct UN sponsored Cyprus talks. The commitment of the parties to negotiate within a specific time framework and on the basis of the Annan plan with the aim of reuniting the island before May 1, 2004, is of immense importance. It is our sincere wish and hope that Cyprus will join the European Union as a reunited country.

There are certain provisions in the current Annan plan that could render it unworkable and should be revised. We feel that reaching a fair and viable agreement will lead to a strong endorsement by the people of Cyprus. We must secure for the people of Cyprus a democratic system of governance based on the rule of law and the ideals that guide our own democracy.

It is our firm belief that in order to achieve this goal your office must promote, within the framework of the Cyprus talks, the following proposals:

(1) It is absolutely necessary that all legal obligations of the guarantor powers (Turkey, Greece, UK), including the security aspects, be in place prior to the two simultaneous referenda that will be held on April 20 by the two communities in Cyprus. In addition, all federal laws and international agreements have to be completed and agreed before the referenda. The people of Cyprus must have a completed accord to consider so they fully understand what they are voting to approve or disapprove. Furthermore, the federal government of the United Cyprus Republic will have to be able to function immediately and effectively after the new state of affairs is established. It is, therefore, essential that the final accord be readily implemented and self-executing.

(2) The Annan plan proposes a highly complicated system for resolving property issues that may force rightful owners to give up their property rights. It is essential that the agreed system for resolving property issues be consistent with the European Convention on Human Rights and international law.

(3) The agreed number of settlers from Turkey that will remain in Cyprus must be clearly defined. This number should be as low as possible and a fair immigration structure should be developed.

(4) During the transitional period, the land that will be returned to the Greek Cypriot side must come under the control of the United Nations so that the process of returning this land and the resettlement of the refugees will be irreversible.

(5) The Annan plan calls for the full demilitarization of both, Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot sides, so it makes no sense for troops from Greece and Turkey to remain in Cyprus indefinitely. We believe that security arrangements in Cyprus be enhanced through an enlarged UN force mandated by the UN Security Council.

This historic opportunity for solving the Cyprus issue must be energetically pursued. We believe that a lasting peace will benefit the people of Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey. The division of Cyprus and its people must come to an end once and for all. A comprehensive settlement appears possible and Cyprus deserves a bright future as a reunited country in the European Union.

We appreciate your efforts in the resumption of the Cyprus talks. We also welcome your personal commitment and involvement in the process. We are sure that you are committed to reaching a just, functional and viable settlement in Cyprus.

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL BILIRAKIS,
CAROLYN MALONEY,
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART,
ROBERT MENENDEZ,
GEORGE RADANOVICH,
Members of Congress.

ON THE PASSING OF JUDGE JOHN R. PERRY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with heartfelt sadness to acknowledge the death of a great public servant to the State of Michigan. On April 12, 2004, Judge John R. Perry was killed by a hit-and-run driver while walking home. John Perry was known for his passion for the law and for the legal process and for the enthusiasm and commitment he brought to his family and his community.

Judge Perry was born in Wyandotte, MI on January 11, 1931. He earned his law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1958 and since then he has never looked back, embarking on a 24-year career as an attorney and serving as a mentor to many young lawyers as they worked their way through the course of their legal profession. In 1982, Mr. Perry was appointed to the 36th District Court bench and served for 12 years as an executive presiding judge in the court's environmental, criminal, and traffic and ordinance divisions. Judge Perry was a great friend to the district court, often lending a hand to younger judges who joined the court.

While John was known in part for his legal career, he was also known for his compassion, his involvement in the community and his friendship to many of us. John was a good husband and father and I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Suzanne, his two sons,